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BOUNTIFUL CHILDREN WORKED IN LOGGING
BOYS AS YOUNG AS 12 EMPLOYED: LEADER {page 8}

BETTER THAN STORE-BOUGHT
APPLE BARS MAKE A YUMMY DESSERT {page 32}

LOADED
HEIGL GETS TOUGH PLAYING GUN-TOTING BOUNTY HUNTER {page 23}

VANCOUVER metro®
Thursday, January 26, 2012
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Tied-up. Right now

▶ A dog waits for its owner to return while it's tied up outside a coffee shop in Yaletown.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Councillor unleashes dog bylaw crusade

Vancouver Green Coun. Adriane Carr is introducing a motion asking staff to look at options to change a bylaw against tying up dogs in public. People caught leaving their dogs tied up in public can face a $250 fine. Story, page 6.

2 kids die in home blaze

▶ RCMP trauma teams offering support to the community: Lantzville Mayor Jack de Jong

Two young brothers who died in a house fire on the Nanoose First Nation on Vancouver Island had been moved out of their own home to avoid the danger of falling trees in a wind storm, the RCMP say.

Const. Garry O'Brien said a man and woman woke up to the sound of a smoke alarm at about 5 a.m. Wednesday in the home in Lantzville, about 17 kilometres north of Nanaimo.

He said the couple tried to put out the fire but failed before escaping with two other children and were unable to save the brothers, aged seven and 10, because of the quickly spreading flames.

O'Brien said one of the adults was hospitalized for treatment of burns and smoke inhalation, while the second person was also treated for minor smoke inhalation.

The two children who were saved were not injured.

O'Brien said the fire is considered accidental and foul play is not suspected, but an investigation is continuing with the B.C. Coroners Service.

A local First Nations chief told CTV News a tree fell on a hydro line Tuesday night, cutting power to the area, and there may have been lit candles inside the home.

O'Brien said the couple did not have insurance and lost everything including their two cars, and the First Nation is collecting financial donations along with donations of clothing and other articles for the family. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Eight more suspected rioters charged

Crown prosecutors have approved charges against eight more alleged Stanley Cup rioters.

Vancouver police announced Wednesday that 26 charges have been approved against the eight individuals, all between the ages of 18 and 26.

To date, 38 people have been charged with 103 offences in relation to the June 15 riot, which occured after the Vancouver Canucks lost Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final at home.

Charged are Eric Palmer, 26, Duncan Yee, 20, Samia Ahmed, 18, Chelsea Andrews, 18, and Arian Anwari, 18, all of Surrey, 22-year-old Burnaby resident Sean Yates, 19-year-old Chilliwack resident Joshua Pharand and 21-year-old Comox resident Timothy Lau. MATT KIELTYKA

Fee increase for YVR travellers

Starting in May, travellers flying through YVR will have to pay an additional $5 in airport-improvement fees.

To fund upgrades as part of the Vancouver Airport Authority's 10-year $1.8-billion strategy to "keep YVR competitive," the airport-improvement fee will increase to $20 from $15 for passengers travelling to destinations outside the province. KENDRA WONG

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

▶ NDP MLA Jenny Kwan, on left at table, and Rio Theatre general manager Corrine Lea speak to media at the East Vancouver theatre Wednesday.

Government looks into theatre liquor issue

- Solicitor general confirms government weighing liquor-law amendments
- Theatre banned from showing films while it holds events liquor licence

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

The Rio Theatre may just end up toasting the government.

Solicitor General Shirley Bond has confirmed the provincial government is actively looking into possible changes to the laws that prevent the East Vancouver cinema from screening films while it holds a liquor licence for live events.

"We are aware of the challenges that these establishments have faced with current regulations and, in fact, over the last several months have been examining the policy implications and are currently considering what changes may be appropriate," Bond said in a written statement. "We look forward to having more say about this in the near future."

The Rio was forced to cancel all film programming — the majority of its business at the mixed-use venue — this week after being granted a liquor primary licence by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch.

The theatre's manager, Corrine Lea, claims she didn't know a primary liquor licence for live events would forbid the Rio from screenings films, with no alcohol service, until last week.

The theatre was previously able to hold film screenings and serve alcohol at individual live events by applying for a special-event licence.

NDP MLA Jenny Kwan and a handful of community organizations that rent out the theatre joined forces Wednesday to demand immediate action to keep the Rio alive.

"The minister can fix this literally with the stroke of a pen," Kwan said. "Allow them to operate as they always have been … without the red tape."

1 news

Smartphone app offers reward points for watching TV and allows you to spend them on fast food. Scan code for story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

Another cellphone interrupts another classical performance, but this violist handles it like a pro. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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It's time for Evergreen

Rapid transit line was slated for 2009, 2010, 2014, and now 2016

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

Yes, really.

The Evergreen Line will be finished and operational by 2016, and this time the government means it.

Members of all levels of government were in Port Moody Wednesday to announce the very first contracts for the rapid transit line that was originally supposed to be running by now.

Langley's Pedre Contractors Ltd. and Surrey's Hans Demolition and Excavating are expected to break ground on their pre-construction work within the next couple of weeks.

"Today marks the start of a project that will positively impact Metro Vancouver for many years to come," said Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore, MP for Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam.

EL Partners, Kiewit/Flatiron Evergreen Line and SNC-Lavalin Inc. have been shortlisted as potential contractors. Technical submissions are due in April.

The 11-kilometre rapid transit line is projected to serve 70,000 riders a day by 2012.

METRO FILE

▶ Burquitlam Station on the proposed Evergreen Line.

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4.5 hours. 253 years

▶ Bruce McLeod celebrates his Scottish heritage by reading a poem by the country's national poet, Robert Burns, at SFU Harbour Centre Wednesday.

Poetry marathon for Burns

In honour of Robert Burns' 253rd birthday, SFU's Centre for Scottish Studies organized a four-and-a-half-hour-long poetry-reading marathon.

Suspect sought after shots fired at Mounties during robbery

19 Police are searching for 19-year-old Devan Markcus Wong of Surrey, also known as Markcus Mix.

The RCMP have issued an arrest warrant for a man wanted in a jewelry store robbery in Kelowna in which shots were fired at the Mounties who arrived on the scene.

Police are looking for 19-year-old Devan Markcus Wong of Surrey, also known as Markcus Mix.

An armed man who robbed the Premier Jewelry and Loans store on Dec. 6 fired shots at police as he fled the scene before carjacking a Kelowna resident to make his getaway.

No one was injured in the shooting, and police say Wong should be considered armed and dangerous and not be approached by the general public.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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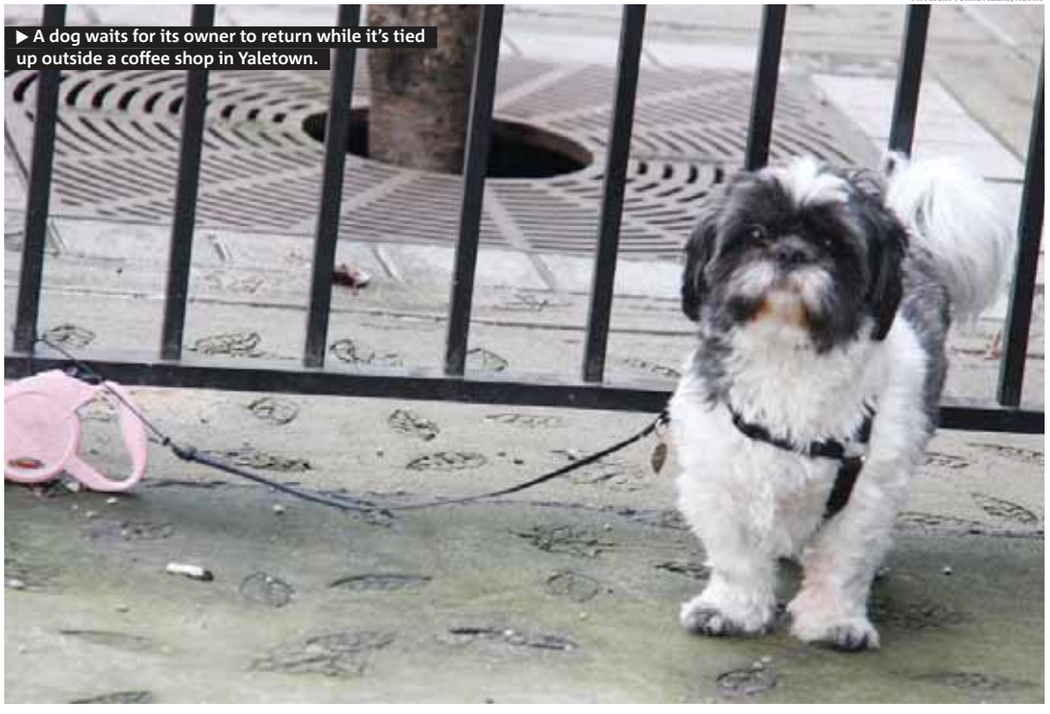
Dog bylaw barking up the wrong tree: Carr

- Councillor wants bylaw against tying up dogs in public changed
- Most pet owners and businesses are unaware bylaw exists, Carr says

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO



▶ A dog waits for its owner to return while it's tied up outside a coffee shop in Yaletown.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

Did you know that it's illegal to tie up your dog while you grab a coffee?

Green Coun. Adriane Carr wants to change that.

The newly elected councillor is introducing a motion Tuesday that requests city staff to report to council options to change a bylaw against tying up dogs unattended in public.

"This particular section is overkill and it does penalize people who really do act responsibly and whose pets don't pose any threats to the public," Carr said.

$250 The fine pet owners can be charged if caught tying their dogs up unattended in a public place.

Anyone busted for disobeying the section of the city's animal control bylaw can be slapped with a $250 fine.

"When people heard about the fine of $250, they were shocked," she said, adding it's long been a bylaw on the books but not everyone knows about it and it's rarely enforced.

Carr said that most, if not all, the pet owners she's talked to this past week are not aware that such a bylaw exists.

"This particular section is overkill and it does penalize people who really do act responsibly and whose pets don't pose any threats to the public."
GREEN COUN. ADRIANE CARR

"I suspect many businesses don't know it too because there are many businesses in downtown Vancouver that are very dog friendly," she said.

"The vast majority of dogs are well-behaved and their owners are responsible," Carr added.

"I just don't want those people to lose the liberty of taking their dog on a walk, temporarily leaving it to drop into a convenient store or coffee shop for a brief period of time."

She also suggested better education, including parents teaching common sense instructions to children to not approach dogs.

For more news, visit metronews.ca/vancouver

Kinder Morgan oil spill cleanup OK: Minister

B.C. Environment Minister Terry Lake says Kinder Morgan has reacted appropriately to an oil spill at its oil-holding facility in Abbotsford.

Lake says he was informed of the incident Tuesday night, ministry officials are at the scene, and the leak has been contained properly.

Kinder Morgan has not said exactly how much oil leaked, but Lake agrees with the company's assessment that the spill is small.

He says the escaped oil remained in containment tanks on Kinder Morgan property and has been treated to ensure any odours are contained.

The Fraser Valley-area tank farm is part of the Trans Mountain pipeline system that moves Alberta crude to the West Coast for shipment on tankers.

Critics say the spill demonstrates the dangers of pipelines but Lake says anyone worried about managing every risk should "stay in bed in the morning." **CHNL/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Dust levels put sawmill workers at risk: WorkSafeBC

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The Babine Forest Products mill.

A WorkSafeBC report written just weeks before a devastating fire levelled a sawmill in Northern B.C. — killing two and injuring 19 workers — says dust levels in the facility's basement were more than twice the acceptable level.

High dust levels in places like sawmills can pose respiratory difficulties for workers and can also be an explosion hazard.

The WorkSafeBC inspection report shows an officer collected 10 dust samples from the mill on Nov. 22 and Nov. 23 and submitted the samples for lab tests.

The results released Dec. 28 found dust levels in the cleanup area were more than twice the acceptable level for an eight-hour exposure limit.

The report says the findings suggest the mill's water misters and ventilation systems were not adequately protecting workers.

The report ordered the mill to submit a notice of compliance to WorkSafeBC by Jan. 31. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

PUBLIC INQUIRY

Pickton could have been stopped sooner: Rossmo

The Vancouver police could have stopped serial killer Robert Pickton more than two years before he was finally caught if the force had taken the case more seriously and devoted the resources such a massive investigation would require, a public inquiry heard Wednesday.

Former detective Kim Rossmo, who was a geographic profiler with the force, said Pickton wasn't caught sooner because senior police management resisted the theory that the women were being murdered by a serial killer.

Pickton wasn't arrested until February 2002, when an RCMP officer obtained an unrelated warrant to search Pickton's farm for illegal firearms. Between late 1999 and his arrest, a dozen more women who were later connected to Pickton's farm disappeared. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Accused stabber charged

A 22-year-old Chilliwack man has been charged in a case in which a middle-aged man was stabbed after asking some young people to pick up their litter.

Christopher John Nadin is accused of aggravated assault in the November stabbing. Cpl. Tammy Hollingsworth says the 43-year-old victim was out walking his dog when he told some young people to pick up the garbage they'd dropped.

The man is still recovering and hasn't returned to work due to his injuries. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Wood building chopped down to size

The tallest multi-use wood building in the world may end up being not so tall, after all.

Prince George-Mackenzie MLA Pat Bell says designers are whittling down the original proposal for the Wood Innovation and Design Centre slated for downtown Prince George.

Last year, the province announced plans for a 10-storey, all-wood structure to showcase the versatility and strength of B.C. lumber — but Bell says most designers now say six storeys would accomplish the same goals. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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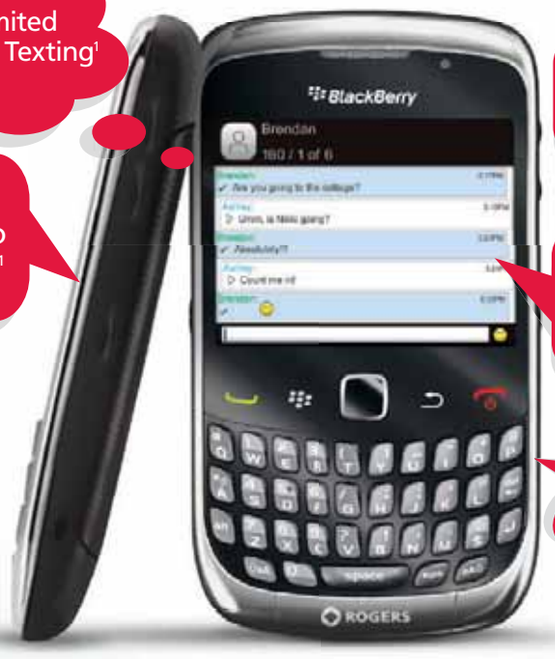

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Boys in Bountiful worked for little

- Youth worked on logging loaders in compound
- Leader says they were kept away from danger

Children as young as 12 in Bountiful were working on logging loaders and skidders, earning well below the minimum wage, the leader of the polygamous community has testified.

Winston Blackmore revealed that fact in a Tax Court of Canada trial Wednesday as he attempted to fight a claim that he owes an extra $1.5 million in taxes for the years 2000 to 2004 and 2006.

Blackmore said the boys from the community did all kinds of summer jobs for his company J.R. Blackmore and Sons Ltd., including rounding up cattle, bundling fence

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Winston Blackmore

posts and working at the company's logging operation.

The parents of the children often designated where the children would go, Blackmore said.

"They were worried about risk, we all were."

Blackmore couldn't recall how much the children — all boys — were paid, but agreed when asked by federal government lawyer Lynn Burch that it was probably less than a couple of dollars an hour.

He said the children were issued cheques and he would cash them, giving them money from a store operation that J.R. Blackmore also owned.

Residents of Bountiful follow the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or FLDS, an offshoot of the Mormon church.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tasty. Dish

▶ Hans Berg prepares his signature codfish at Vancouver's Art Institute Culinary School on Wednesday.

JENNIFER KWOK/FOR METRO

Chef has all the ingredients for success

Representing the top of his class in Vancouver, aspiring chef Hans Berg will be competing at the 10th annual Almost Famous Chef regional competition in Toronto next week. Competitors will be judged upon their creative cooking abilities, personality and ability to perform under pressure. The successful winner will have a chance to compete in the finals in Napa Valley, Calif., in March.

Disney cruises returning to Vancouver

You can call this latest announcement from a U.S. cruise operator a real Mickey Mouse decision. The Disney Cruise Line will return to Vancouver for next year's cruises to Alaska.

Vancouver rakes in about $30 million from business linked to the Disney visits.

NEWS1130/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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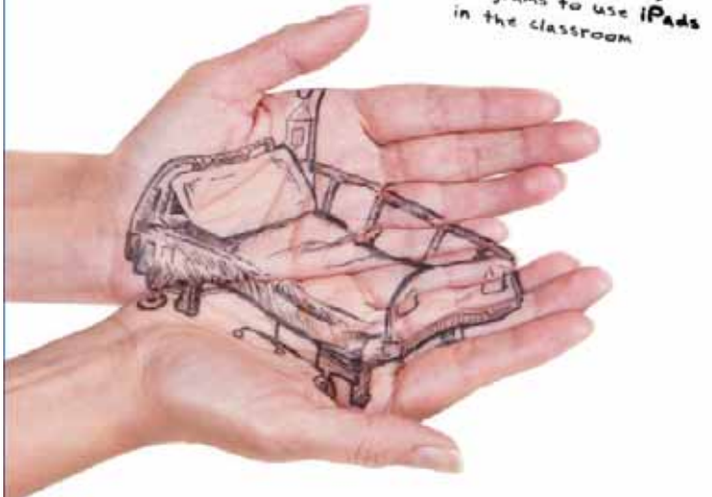

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PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO FILE

▶ George Affleck

Broadcast Metro meetings: Affleck

City councillor hopes to make 'mysterious' board more transparent

KENDRA WONG
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Vancouver NPA Coun. George Affleck is calling for the Metro board to lay its cards on the table with a new motion to broadcast all board meetings live.

"(It's an) organization that has a $614-million budget and here's a board of directors that's not voted in; they're designated by each city," said Affleck. "(It's) one of the largest city halls in the province and has no transparency."

The newly elected councillor hopes to gain the support of five Vision councillors to call for the broadcast of future meetings on television or online.

"I would be very surprised if (the Vision councillors) don't support this motion because they are very boastful of how they say Vancouver is transparent," he said.

Affleck insists the new technology won't come at a huge cost to taxpayers, adding that the audio equipment is already installed and all they would need is a digital camera to stream the footage online.

"Transparency is about making (the meetings) available. There's no reason why we shouldn't do it."

He will introduce the motion at Tuesday's city council meeting.

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Province seizes grow-op house

800 The property of Tac Khac Le, which was used to grow more than 800 marijuana plants, was confiscated and sold.

The province has seized a Richmond house that was being used as a marijuana grow-op.

The property of Tac Khac Le, which had been used to grow more than 800 marijuana plants, was confiscated and sold by the Crown under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

Located on the 12,000 block of Mellis Drive, the property was sold in March 2011 with a surplus of $266,000 after paying out mortgage and associated costs.

Le, 49, was arrested in March 2008 and sentenced in September 2011 for drug offences and the theft of telecommunication service. ● JENNIFER KWOK

Cruise disaster a near miss for MP's parents

Parents of an Okanagan member of Parliament say they disembarked a cruise ship only hours before it crashed into the rocks of a tiny Tuscan island.

The parents of Okanagan-Coquihalla MP Dan Albas, Charlie and Valerie Albas, say they got off the Costa Concordia Jan. 13 after a seven-day Mediterranean cruise.

The couple didn't hear about the crash until the next day, and Charlie says his first reaction was relief, followed by sadness as he thought about the victims.

Sixteen people are confirmed dead, 16 are still missing and the ship's captain is under house arrest as prosecutors investigate him for suspected manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning his vessel. KELOWNA COURIER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

No fee break for food bank

PARKING. Volunteers at a Trail food bank aren't going to get a break on city parking fees. City council has turned down a request for parking passes for representatives of the Trail United Church food bank. TRAIL DAILY TIMES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Focus urged on Chinese tourists

TRAVEL. The Canadian Tourism Commission says the province's tourism industry needs to focus on Chinese travellers. It says Chinese travellers are now Canada's fourth-biggest market. CFAX 1070/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Son ‘stupid’ but not killer: Lawyer

Defence pleads with jury to end Shafia family’s ‘Kafkaesque’ ordeal

A young man accused of killing his three sisters and the first of his father’s two wives is only guilty of being “stupid” and “morally blameworthy,” but neither he nor his co-accused parents deserve to be in this “Kafkaesque” scenario, court heard Wednesday.

Hamed Shafia, 21, and his parents Mohammad Shafia, 58, and Tooba Yahya, 42, are on trial for four counts each of first-degree murder, accused by the Crown of killing their four female relatives in a so-called honour killing. They have pleaded not guilty.

Four months after the family’s July 22, 2009, arrests, Hamed told a university student hired on the sly by Shafia as a private investigator that he was there when the car went in the canal. He said he had followed them from the motel as a concerned brother.

He rear-ended them near the scene, he said, and while he was picking up pieces of headlight he heard a splash and ran to the edge of the canal.

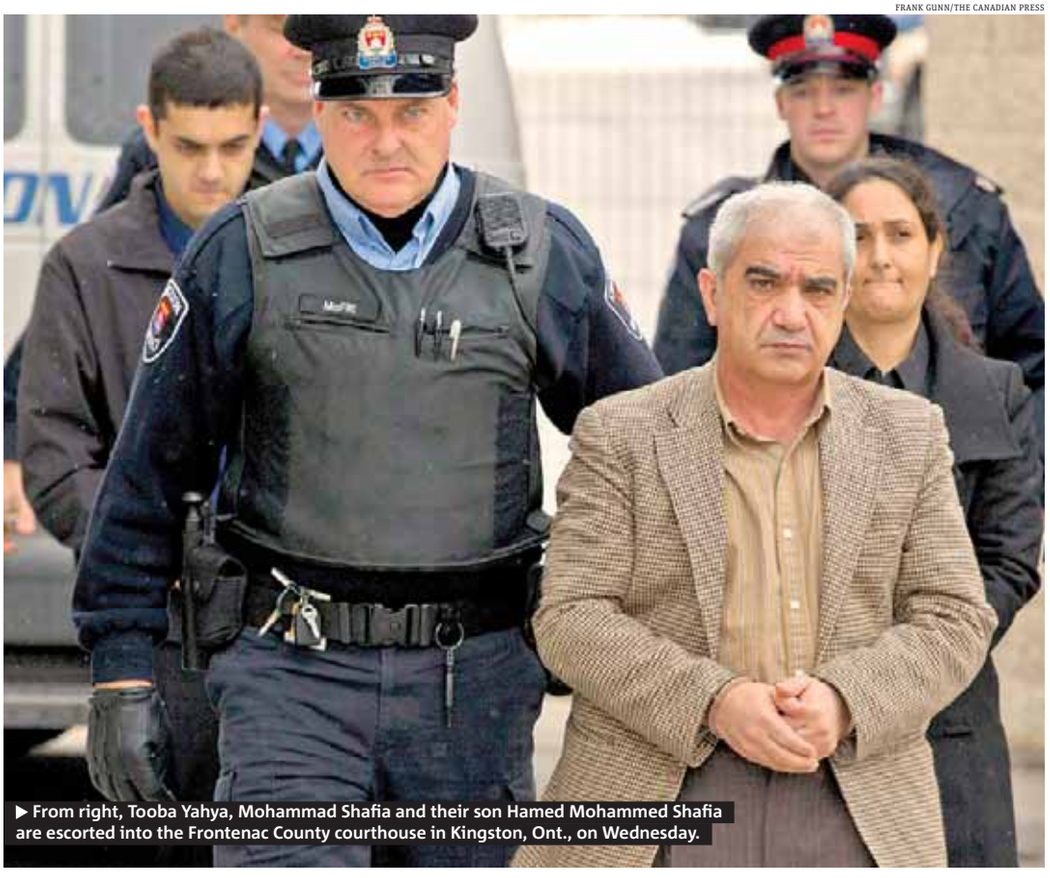
He called their names and dangled a rope in the water, but seeing no signs of life he eventually drove through the night home to Montreal without alerting police, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime scene

- The Crown alleges the girls and their mother were dead, or at least incapacitated, before they went into the canal. It’s been suggested by the defence that the Crown theory is the four people were drowned in one of the other areas of open water around the scene, then placed in the car.
- Hamed Shafia’s lawyer Patrick McCann, as well as the lawyers for his parents who addressed the jury Tuesday, scoffed at that notion. “How would it be done?” McCann said. “Just the practicality of doing it, it’s implausible.”

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ From right, Tooba Yahya, Mohammad Shafia and their son Hamed Mohammed Shafia are escorted into the Frontenac County courthouse in Kingston, Ont., on Wednesday.

Cat in the cockpit delays flight by 4 hours

PHILIP CROUCHER IN HALIFAX

Forget about snakes on a plane. A pesky feline left airport officials in Halifax scratching their heads Wednesday.

An Air Canada flight to Toronto from Halifax scheduled to depart at 5:30 a.m. was delayed for more than four hours after a cat escaped from its owner’s carrier prior to takeoff, then made itself comfortable inside the cockpit by squeezing inside some panels near wiring.

“We’ll see a movie come out of this one,” joked Halifax Stanfield International Airport spokesman Peter Spurway.

With the cat refusing to come out, Spurway said the decision was made by Air Canada to stop boarding the flight and passengers on the plane had to go back into the waiting area. Maintenance workers then came on scene to remove panels and dissemble part of the cockpit before the cat was retrieved, unharmed.

“They (then) checked all the wiring where the cat had been to make sure there was no damage and (the wiring was) connected properly,” Spurway said. “They then put the panels back on, put the passengers back on the plane and then they left at about 10 a.m.”

Spurway “presumed” the woman who had carried the cat onto the plane was back on it with her animal.

CTV SCREEN GRAB

▶ Ripples, the cat who escaped from a crate onboard an Air Canada flight to Toronto from Halifax.

“It’s a first for me and I haven’t run into anybody yet who has heard of this before.”
HALIFAX STANFIELD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SPOKESMAN PETER SPURWAY

Online profiling a reality: Privacy czar

Ontario’s privacy commissioner says people’s perceptions of their privacy and anonymity online fall far short of reality.

Dr. Ann Cavoukian says seemingly unrelated pieces of information that people share about themselves online may now be linked together to create a detailed profile. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cocaine in fruit leads to charges

Six southern Ontario residents have been charged after drugs were found in fruit shipments in New Brunswick and Windsor, Ont. The RCMP say the investigation started when border officials seized a marine container in Saint John, N.B., last August and found 19 kilograms of cocaine in hollowed-out pineapples.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget to reflect aboriginal priorities

The coming budget will be consistent with the priorities agreed to by aboriginal leaders and the federal government, Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said Wednesday.

A pledge was made during talks this week to move forward with recommendations on education reform. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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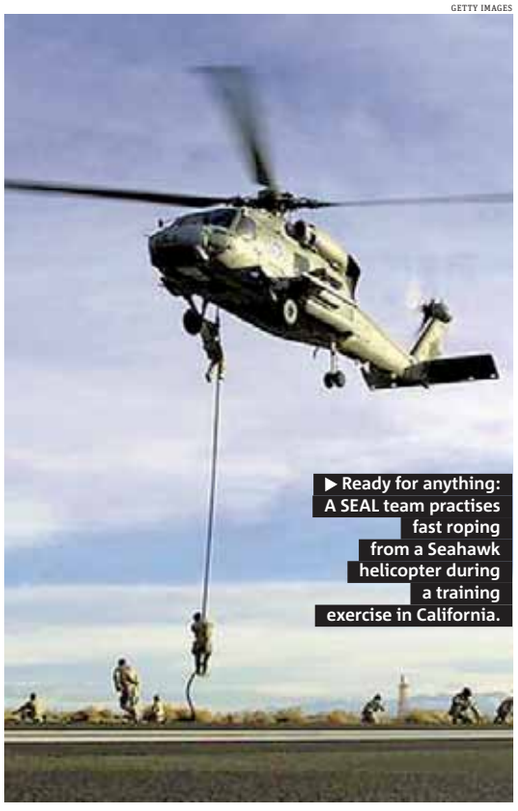

▶ Ready for anything: A SEAL team practises fast roping from a Seahawk helicopter during a training exercise in California.

SEAL-ed!

Same U.S. team that killed Osama Bin Laden rescues hostages in a daring raid into Somalia

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Freed: Thisted and Buchanan

They did it again!

The crack U.S. Navy SEAL team that killed Osama bin Laden parachuted into Somalia under the cover of darkness early Wednesday and scored another bold triumph.

They crept up to an outdoor camp where an American woman and Danish man were being held hostage.

Soon, nine kidnappers were dead — and both hostages were freed.

U.S. President Barack Obama authorized the mission by SEAL Team Six two days earlier. And minutes after he gave his State of the Union address to Congress, he was on the phone with the American's father to tell him his daughter was safe.

Held captive since last fall, American Jessica Buchanan, 32, and Poul Hagen Thisted, a 60-year-old Dane, were soon safely on their way home.

It was the second splashy SEAL Team Six success in less than a year, following last May's killing of bin Laden in Pakistan.

The Pentagon was tight-lipped about details Wednesday, citing a need to preserve the secrecy that can give SEALs an edge against terrorists, criminals and others they are ordered to kill or capture.

Special operations forces, trained for clandestine, small-team missions, have become a more prominent tool in the military's kit since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The Obama administration is expected to announce on Thursday it will invest even more heavily in them.

The raid happened near the town of Adado.

The U.S. raiders caught the kidnappers as they slept after having chewed the narcotic leaf qat for much of the evening, a pirate who gave his name as Bile Hussein told The Associated Press by phone.

Pentagon press secretary George Little said the captors were heavily armed and had "explosives nearby" when the rescuers arrived.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The United States will not tolerate the abduction of our people and will spare no effort to secure the safety of our citizens and to bring their captors to justice."

U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Scots want teens to vote on independence

Scotland's leader has presented his proposal for a ballot on independence.

And his ideas include letting 16- and 17-year-olds cast ballots.

First Minister Alex Salmond announced the Scottish government's preferred options for the vote on whether to sever ties from Britain, which it plans to hold in fall 2014.

A "yes" vote would lead to independence taking effect with a May 2016 election.

Scotland and England united in 1707 to form Great Britain.

Salmond told Scottish lawmakers in Edinburgh Wednesday that the ballot would ask "Do you agree that Scotland should be an independent country?"

But he said it could also include a third option, backing increased autonomy short of independence.

CHRISTIAN LUTZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ British Prime Minister David Cameron wants all Britons to have a say on Scottish independence.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said everyone in Britain should have a say in changes to Scotland's status.

"The point that everyone needs to understand is that options for further devolution, options for changes across the United Kingdom, are matters all of the United Kingdom should rightly discuss," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"If a 16-year-old in Scotland can ... join the army, get married and pay taxes, surely he or she should be able to have a say in this country's constitutional future?"

ALEX SALMOND, SCOTLAND'S FIRST MINISTER

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Syria in UNESCO rights row

A group of UNESCO member states are trying to remove Syria from a committee with a human rights mandate, a panel it quietly rejoined despite its crackdown on protesters.

UNESCO's Committee on Conventions and Recommendations deals with multiple issues, but has a strong rights component.

Now a number of countries, from the United States and Britain to Qatar and Kuwait, want the issue on the agenda of the next executive board.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The Syrian regime's actions are an affront to the dignity and human rights of the Syrian people."
DAVID KILLION,
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO

RED CRESCENT HEAD

Red Cross shocked at killing of one of its own

The head of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent branch in the northern town of Idlib was shot dead Wednesday, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Abdulrazak Jbero was on his way by from Damascus to Idlib when he was shot, said Hicham Hassan, an ICRC spokesperson in Geneva.

The ICRC said he was riding in a "vehicle clearly marked with a Red Crescent emblem" and expressed shock at the killing.

Syria's state-run media blamed "terrorists" for the attack.

President Bashar al-Assad's regime claims terrorists acting for a foreign conspiracy are behind Syria's 10-month uprising, not protesters seeking regime change.

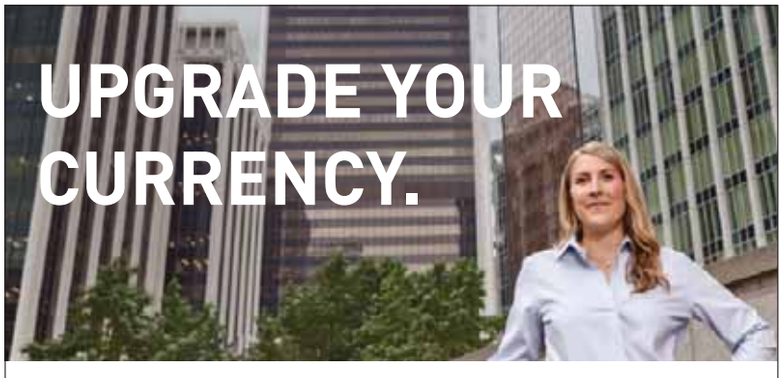
Also, activists reported clashes between government forces and army defectors.

Government forces stormed rebellious districts in central Syria, firing mortars and deploying snipers in violence that killed at least seven people, including a mother and her five-year-old child, the activists said.

A Jordanian man of Palestinian origin accused pro-regime forces of kidnapping and killing his 27-year old son in Hama.

Hafez Abu Osbeh said his son, Ahmed, was kidnapped Friday, and his body left outside his mother's residence three days later with gunshot wounds to his head.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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More than 5,000 protesters have been killed, and so have some 400 children, according to the United Nations A four-month-old was reportedly tortured to death When will the world take action?

TWITTER.COM

ELISABETH BRAW
METRO WORLD NEWS

Syrian security forces raided Amad's home several days ago and delivered a horrendous message.

Stop participating in anti-government protests or we'll take your baby, they told Amad's wife.

The threat was real. There are increasing reports of children being killed or tortured by President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Since Syria's uprising began, more than 400 children have been killed, according to the United Nations.

This month, four-month-old Afaf Al-Sarakbi was taken by security forces. She was returned to her uncle — dead, bearing signs of torture.

In the city of Jisr al-Shughour, a seven-month-old baby was decapitated in front of his mother.

And a two-year-old died after being shot in the eye by soldiers.

Anna Neistat, a Syria expert at Human Rights Watch, said, "Many children have been killed and many others have been put in detention. The number of children in jail is horrendous."

Musa, a pro-democracy activist and father of two young sons, told Metro: "I went into hiding eight months ago and my wife and sons moved in with her parents. It's safer for them that way."

"How can anyone kill a child?" asked Amad, 31, who, like Musa, risked his life to speak with Metro.

Editor's note: The opposition activists' names have been changed for their protection.

Squeezing Syria

The international community is turning up the heat on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

- "We continue to see unacceptable levels of violence inside that country," U.S. President Barack Obama said on Jan. 17.
- King Abdullah of Jordan and the Arab League has called on Assad to step down.
- Several Arab states have proposed sending Arab League soldiers to Syria.
- The Syrian regime, meanwhile, has seen several high-profile members defect. Imam Ghalioun, a member of parliament, has fled to Egypt, and Gen. Mustafa Ahmed al-Sheikh has defected to the dissident Free Syrian Army.

Driver on rampage kills 9

Man rams bus down crowded street in India Another 27 injured

A bus driver mowed down pedestrians and rammed cars, scooters and food stalls in a rampage through crowded Indian streets Wednesday that killed nine people and injured more than two dozen.

Police chased the bus for an hour through the streets of the central city of Pune, with traffic officers firing on it in an attempt to stop it, before they managed to arrest the 30-year-old driver. He is being held on murder charges.

"He just went berserk, slamming into people, cars, school buses, scooters and vegetable stands."
PUNE POLICE COMMISSIONER MEERAN BORWANKAR

The licensed bus driver had driven his route as normal Tuesday, but on Wednesday he jumped into another driver's bus and took off, police said.

Pedestrians tried to flee, with some throwing children out of the way of the oncoming bus, said Pune police Commissioner Meeran Borwankar.

"He went on ramming vehicles, hitting pedestrians. He was in such a dangerous mood," she said.

Food stalls were reduced to piles of squashed produce and broken beams, while at least 40 cars were crushed.

The injured were being treated in three hospitals.

Police have ruled out terrorism as a possible motive but were seeking more answers in questioning the driver, Borwankar said.

The mayor of Pune has appealed for calm.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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▶ People look at damages after a bus was driven into vehicles and pedestrians in Pune, India, on Wednesday.

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Emails joked about man's 'hacker' past

- Dotcom made light of his history to neighbours
- His firm, Megaupload, accused of illegal downloading

POOL/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Kim Dotcom

Two years ago, Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom joked in emails with his new neighbours in New Zealand about his bad-boy reputation before telling them his criminal past was behind him.

"I am a former hacker" who was once convicted of insider trading, he wrote, before going on to say "In all seriousness: My wife, two kids and myself love New Zealand and 'We come in peace.'"

Dotcom's emails came to light Wednesday, the same day a New Zealand judge denied him bail after his arrest on U.S. accusations of copyright infringement.

An Auckland judge denied Dotcom bail pending a hearing Feb. 22 on his possible extradition to face trial in the United States, saying Dotcom poses a flight risk. Dotcom, 38, insists he is innocent.

New Zealand police arrested three other Megaupload employees last week on U.S. charges that they facilitated millions of illegal downloads of films, music and other content, costing copyright holders at least $500 million in lost revenue. A fifth suspect has been arrested in the Netherlands.

Dotcom first developed a reputation as a computer hacker in his native Germany, where he was born Kim Schmitz.

In 2002, he received a 20-month suspended sentence after being found guilty of manipulating stock prices to earn himself $1.1 million.

In New Zealand, Dotcom leased a $24-million mansion in Coatesville, near Auckland, where neighbours said he and his family threw lavish parties and Dotcom zoomed around in luxury cars.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Great. Light north

▶ The aurora borealis puts on a show Tuesday near the city of Trondheim, Norway.

EMIL BRATT BORSTING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Solar storm lights up the heavens

Stargazers were out in force in northern Europe on Tuesday night, hoping to be dazzled by a spectacular showing of the aurora borealis, or northern lights, after the most powerful solar storm in six years.

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Planting map rezoned to reflect warming

The official U.S. map of North American planting zones is being updated for a warmer 21st century.

The colourful hardiness map — a staple on seed packets — reflects a new reality: The coldest day of the year isn't as cold as it used to be. So some plants that once seemed too vulnerable to cold can now survive farther north.

It's the first time since 1990 that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has updated the map and much has changed. Entire states such as Ohio, Nebraska and Texas are in warmer zones. The new guide also uses better weather data and offers more interactive technology. Gardeners in the U.S. can register their zip code into the online map and their zone will pop up. It shows the exact average coldest temperature for each of the 26 zones.

"People who grow plants are well aware of the fact that temperatures have gotten more mild throughout the year," said Boston University biology professor Richard Primack. "There's a lot of things you can grow now that you couldn't grow before."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Jerry Holub, manager of the Earl May Nursery and Garden Center in Des Moines, Iowa, says the fact his region is in a warmer zone means customers might even try growing passion flowers.

Google's data plans draw fire

Company could use the information for targeted advertising Critics say the new move violates privacy

ANTHONY JOHNSTON
@METRO.LU
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Google's announcement that it will merge a user's data across its websites into one profile has sparked accusations that the web giant could be breaching people's privacy.

Under plans to come in force on March 1, a person's search results across all Google products, including search, Gmail, Google+ and YouTube, will be collected into one single database, which the company could use for its targeted advertising. For example, if you watched a YouTube video clip of Manchester United, ads of Man United tickets could appear in your Gmail or Google+ account.

But critics see this new policy as very worrying, suggesting for example a person's confidential details on health and lifestyle could be saved in Google's bank of data and used across its websites.

Google claims that the new privacy policy will give the company a better idea of what users are interested to know when they search online.

The plan will "mean a simpler, more intuitive Google experience," Alma Whitten, Google's director of privacy, product and engineering, wrote in a blog post.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

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Oil + 45¢ US ($99.40 US)	Natural gas $2.73 US (+ 17¢ US) Gold $1,700.10 US (+ $35.60 US)

Facebook. Timeline

▶ Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg shows the website's new Timeline feature during the f/8 conference in San Francisco last September.

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New profile just a matter of time

Facebook will switch all 800-million users to its new Timeline profile format over the next few weeks, the company announced in a blog post Tuesday. The rush to convert users to the new format began after the social network announced 60 new Timeline apps last week.

Rogers to respond to throttling allegation

Rogers Communications is studying tests by the CRTC that indicate it has been slowing some Internet traffic in violation of rules governing the practice.

Rogers spokesperson Patricia Trott said the company will respond to the allegation by a Feb. 3 deadline set by the federal regulator.

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AGREE TO DISAGREE WITH A HOCKEY HERO

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

As a Boston Bruins fan this might just be the Stanley Cup champagne talking, but it's possible I'm the only left-leaning person who's OK with goaltender Tim Thomas showing he also likes to play right wing.

In case you're exhibiting concussion-like symptoms and don't know what I'm talking about: The Boston Bruins were invited to the White House this week, but their MVP Thomas decided to stay away and have a Tea Party instead.

In a statement that showed he likes capitalization more than the Capitol, he said that the U.S. government had "grown out of control" and that he had made his decision "as an INDIVIDUAL."

"It's an interesting thing to discover that one of your heroes is your political opposite. It's a bit like discovering that Stephen Hawking has a Confederate flag in his bedroom or Rowlf the Dog is a Scientologist."

The media's reaction? Well, you think the Gadhafis were harshly criticized …

To be fair, Thomas' statement was vague, which left it open to interpretation. A reader might guess that he doesn't recognize the divine provenance of the Los Angeles Kings, believes it's his right to defend his crease with a gun, and thinks that Mario Lemieux is the best Freedom-Canadian player ever.

Here's what some media members actually said: He should turn in his U.S. medal from the Olympics. He hates the troops. And he may be a racist. All this while most were mocking his views as extreme.

The only people who seemed to support him were right-wingers who were happy to pile onto Obama.

It's an interesting thing to discover that one of your heroes is your political opposite. It's a bit like discovering that Stephen Hawking has a Confederate flag in his bedroom or Rowlf the Dog is a Scientologist. You admire them for reasons totally beyond what their politics are, and you're not sure how to process it when given the new information.

Fortunately for me, I'm a militant free-speech guy (and God knows I've got enough friends who are part of the flu-shots-kill-but-bin-Laden's-alive extreme left.)

I've got a good head start with cognitive dissonance, because I have two other heroes whom I disagree with on just about everything but who are good at what they do and live their lives with integrity. I call them "Mom" and "Dad."

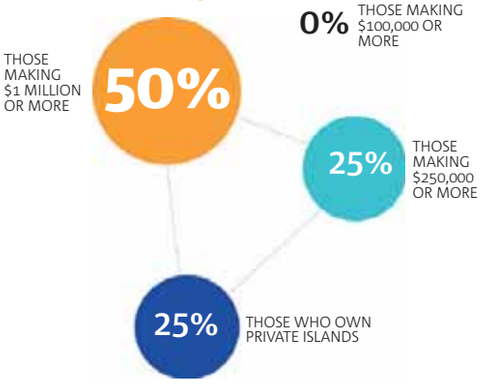
So I don't care that Thomas took his stance and I would argue over a beer, rather than commiserate. In the sports realm, he's a thoughtful, polite and intelligent interview, and on the ice he's already proven he's one of the best players in the world.

Thomas has done his bit for king and country. So to speak.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Who is the one per cent?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Local tweets

- **@VanCanucks:** The #NHLAllStar Fantasy Draft takes place tomorrow at 5:00PM PST. Can't watch it? We'll be tweeting the highlights live.
- **@SepBaz:** I'm going to create a laughter database. Whenever you're feeling down, you go to the laughter database and play a bunch of laughter. Win.
- **@charliedemers:** My two "people you may know" on Facebook right now are Michael Eckford and Fiona Forbes. I'm the definition of almost-famous-in-Vancouver.
- **@ChristieBuono:** RT "Former @viraiders RB @andrewharris33 is a finalist for @SportBC Athlete of the Year. Go vote for him!" Way to go Andrew! #BCLions
- **@bcgeu:** BC Federation of Labour to launch online newspaper - sign-up to subscribe! ow.ly/8GxnW #1u #bcpoli @bcfed
- **@ElizabethMay:** Happy Birthday Robbie Burns! Have a wee dram in his honour!
- **@michaelgeller:** @CBCStephenQuinn There's no choice today....I nice chunk of haggis soaked in Laphroig! That should be today's treat!

GETTY IMAGES

On high alert in Tahrir

One year since the revolution

CAIRO, EGYPT. Thousands of Egyptians flocked back to Tahrir Square to mark the first anniversary of the start of the revolution that ousted authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak. But the mood in the square was far from just celebratory amid fear that violence could erupt between protesters and the military. MWN

Military still calling the shots

TENSIONS. Why has there been more frustration than celebration? Tensions have been simmering between pro-democracy activists and the military. December saw nine dead and hundreds injured after a crackdown on antimilitary protesters. The military council has pledged to transfer power to a civilian government by July 1. MWN

Egypt today

- **Islamists coming to fore:** Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party wins last week's lower-house election.
- **Ailing Mubarak in the dock:** Ex-leader's trial on corruption and ordering deaths of protesters continues.

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HANDOUT

▶ Noord Nederlandse Dans will perform in Vancouver as part of next month's Chutzpah! festival of music, theatre and dance.

Esoteric and eclectic

Chutzpah! brings its unique brand of entertainment to Vancouver ◐ Embrace the strange

BACKSTAGE PASS

GRAEME MCRANOR
METRO VANCOUVER

Hey, Vancouver, you've got Chutzpah!

No, seriously, it's coming next month. You know, the annual festival featuring music, theatre and dance?

Chutzpah!

How can you not be excited about an event that has an exclamation mark embedded in its name?

Here's a festival that's been showcasing world-class acts for more than a decade and, this year, its multifaceted slate promises to deliver the goods to festival enthusiasts across our fair land.

"We're thrilled to present one our most dynamic and eclectic festivals to date featuring some of the world's finest artist, two multi-run plays, and numerous Vancouver, Canadian and world premieres," says festival artistic managing director, Mary-Louise Albert.

Festivalgoers will be thrilled to take it all in. This year's festival includes four dance productions: Monger, choreographed by Barak Marshall and performed by L.A.'s Body Traffic; Thank You, You're Not Welcome, written and directed by James Fagan Tate; Noord Nederlandse Dans, from Holland; and resident dance artists Donald Sales and Cherice Barton. For theatre, the festival offers King Matt the First, Blink & You Might Miss Me, A Blessing on the Moon featuring Poland's Warsaw Village Band and Goodness.

Plenty of music too. And, in addition to an ongoing residence at the Norman and Annette Rothstein Theatre, this year the festival returns to the Commodore Ballroom and the Firehall Arts Centre, while adding two new venues — the Electric Owl on Main Street and Richmond's River Rock Theatre.

Chutzpah! opens Feb. 11 and runs until Mar. 4. Single tickets for all shows range from $16 - $40 and can be purchased via the festival's website and ticketstonight.ca.

More information at chutzpahfestival.com.

Events

What else is going on around Vancouver?

▶ **Panama** Hey, it's Van Halen. Again. And this time they're — let me just check — oh, they're back with Dave Lee Roth. Good news. Well, unless you prefer Hagar. That's Sammy, not the comic Viking. Anyway, said rockers will rock out at Rogers Arena May 7. Tickets range from $29.50 - $149.50 and go on sale Saturday at LiveNation.com.

2 scene

Garth Brooks

An Oklahoma hospital in Garth Brooks' hometown must pay $1 million to the country singer because it failed to build a women's health centre in honour of his late mother, jurors ruled Tuesday evening.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Graceland' revisited: Sundance doc traces success, fallout of Paul Simon's smash album

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No need to talk about it

Swinton not fazed by Oscar snub Won 2008 best supporting actress

Tilda Swinton wasn't nominated for an Academy Award for her role in We Need to Talk About Kevin, but she wasn't sad after hearing the news.

"I wasn't disappointed. I didn't know for hours, but someone was telling me apparently everyone else was disappointed. I had very low expectations, so perhaps my expectations were a bit lower than everybody else," the 51-year-old actress said Tuesday at an event celebrating Here, a short film starring supermodel Agyness Deyn that Swinton conceived for Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc.'s Luxury Collection brand.

"I am a good gambler, so I knew we were not really going to be in there," she said.

Swinton took home an Oscar in 2008 for best supporting actress for Michael Clayton.

This time, she not only starred in We Need to Talk about Kevin, but also served as an executive producer. Swinton was nominated for a Golden Globe for her role in the film, and she said being nominated for any major award was a win for the movie.

"This is a film that was put out by a tiny distributor who doesn't have the money to put ads on the sides of buses or television ads or have a whole page in a newspaper, so for us, nominations and prizes are a big deal because by that way, people hear about our film."

Swinton lost to Meryl Streep at the Golden Globes, but she holds no hard feelings and is trying to have a good sense of humour about the entire awards process.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATT SAYLES

Actress Tilda Swinton

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Heigl's 'Plum' role

Heigl gets tough playing bounty hunter Stephanie Plum in One for the Money

NED EHRBAR
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

DONNA WARD/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Katherine Heigl says One for the Money will appeal to men and women.

Playing Stephanie Plum — a lingerie saleswoman turned bounty hunter — in One for the Money has taught Katherine Heigl one thing: She likes to shoot stuff.

"I really enjoyed it because it was super-satisfying and cathartic on some level," she says of the gunplay she did for the film.

"It was fun, I had a good time. I started wanting to go to the gun range regularly.

"And then I started shooting clay pigeons with [husband] Josh [Kelly]. I really like to shoot things. Who knew?"

Not that firearms are necessarily new to her, but the work on this film added a new level of reality to it for the former Grey's Anatomy star.

"I mean, I've been wielding guns in films since I was 15 but they're fake and there's no actual bullet in them — we hope," she says.

"So they took us to a shooting range to practice, because there are certain things you're not supposed to do — like blink when you shoot, but it's impossible not to blink, it's really hard — and it was really intimidating and nerve-wracking the first time they put a loaded gun in your hand. Plus they've just given you a 20-minute spiel about all the dangers of this gun, so you're sort of freaking out."

But clearly she got over that.

All that shooting is aimed at attracting a more diverse audience than your usual romantic comedy fare — especially since the movie is based on one of 17 books in the Stephanie Plum series by the author Janet Evanovich.

Clearly there are hopes for a franchise.

"I think what's sort of interesting about the books is they all have a murder-mystery tie-in, with the bounty hunting aspect of it.

"So it's not all just about romance, it's not all just about comedy," Heigl says.

"The murder-mystery storyline is kind of dark and a little edgy and gives it a vibe that is not purely chick-flick-ish.

"I'm really excited about it because it does appeal to everyone, it isn't just a girl's movie. I think that we're working hard to advertise it so that everyone knows that it's a good time for everyone — men and women included. Tough men. Tough men will love this movie," she adds with a laugh.

Guns and tough guys aside, in the end, the one detail that Heigl and her co-producers agonized over the most was her hair.

"She's brunette. Her look is very specific in the book, and once you get attached to that idea in your head I couldn't imagine Stephanie any other way," Heigl says.

"It was disconcerting, I think, for certain fans to see me as a brunette, and then it was disconcerting for fans of the books to imagine me as Stephanie because I'm blonde and blah blah blah.

"So I dyed it brown before we started filming, trying to get people on board.

"And then I ended up just wearing a wig because I don't have curly hair and Stephanie does.

"And then I went back to blonde while promoting the movie, so I didn't really think it through, but hopefully people will buy it," Heigl adds.

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Dealing in depravity

Spartacus returns with more blood, sex and action
But all that taboo stuff is just part of the time period

STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Spartacus fans are gearing up for the show's return to television and with it, all the controversial blood, sex and action that has made the series so provocatively popular.

"For some reason these things are still really taboo in our society," said returning star Lucy Lawless (also known for her former hit series Xena: Warrior Princess).

"(It gives) a curiosity factor to us which I don't mind. I remember (the hosts of NBC's The Today Show) go 'ooh, that's sounds despicable' and I say 'yes, it is despicable, you've got to watch it!'"

Producers have insisted that depravity isn't just the cornerstone of the show's success. It's also indicative of the immorality of the Roman period in which Spartacus: Vengeance is set and that historical detail intrigues viewers.

"We try and keep things really real because we're doing outrageous stuff," said Lawless. "If you make it art, we've lost it, you lose the tension and it just becomes a spoof. So I think what (fans) love is they can relate to these people going through experiences that none of us ever want to suffer — like in the gladiator ring — and you can live vicariously through them on this dirty, dirty roller-coaster these people are on."

"I think what fans love is they can relate to these people going through experiences that none of us ever want to suffer ... and you can live vicariously through them on this dirty, dirty roller-coaster these people are on"
LUCY LAWLESS

It's not just the carnality of Spartacus: Vengeance that will have viewers curiously tuned to the show's premiere this Sunday on The Movie Network however. After original lead actor Andy Whitfield sadly developed cancer, he gave the producers permission to give the role of Spartacus to newcomer Liam McIntyre after auditioning thousands of actors.

"We knew it would be hard because (Andy) was incandescent in the role," admitted Lawless before addressing her new tenacious co-star. "(But) I adore (Liam).

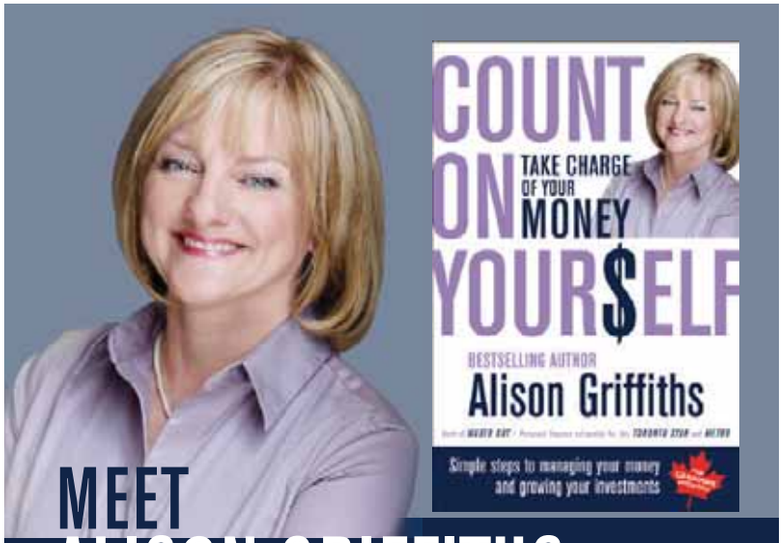
"The earnestness we're going to winkle out of him somehow but yeah, it's that lionheartedness that will carry him through."

HANDOUT

▶ Lucy Lawless says fans of Spartacus enjoy living vicariously through the characters.

Lawless on Liam McIntyre and filming

- "He was so emaciated from doing another role but they kept seeing people and came back to him in the end so he really had to have a lot of heart, he's got the heart of a lion that boy."
- "I suppose we all get our ya-ya's in our work so we can be perfectly normal in between times," said Lawless. "Because everybody's doing things that are completely outrageous, you have to have a sense of humour."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Did Demi suffer seizure?

Embattled star enters rehab Report claims she's being treated for anorexia

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Demi Moore has entered rehab after being rushed to the hospital Monday night for an alleged prescription pill overdose, according to TMZ.

Despite a frantic 911 call and an ambulance dispatched to Moore's home, the actress' reps insist Moore's trip to rehab is for "exhaustion" and nothing more.

"Because of the stresses in her life right now, Demi has chosen to seek professional assistance to treat her exhaustion and improve her overall health," her reps say in a statement.

"She looks forward to getting well and is grateful for the support of her family and friends."

Radar Online reports that actually, Moore had a seizure before she was rushed to the hospital and is now being treated "for anorexia, as well as other issues," a source told the site.

Meanwhile, on the same night she had her breakdown, her estranged husband, Ashton Kutcher, was seen partying with a bevy of beauties at a Bruno Mars concert in Brazil.

It's interesting, isn't it? We spend a lot of time (and editorial space) idolizing these celebrities. We're green-eyed about their wealth, beauty and success.

But whoa — when they crash, they really, really crash. We might not be as thin or as rich, but we normals seem to be able to handle life's problems with a bit more ease.

And really, Demi. Don't let someone as dumb as Ashton Kutcher bring you down. You can — and will — do better.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

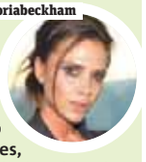
▶ Demi Moore

Celebrity tweets

@rickygervais

For my 2000th tweet, I give you my favourite ever quote from a "fan" "I used to love Ricky Gervais, but he ruined Extras for me" Amazing.

@victoriabeckham



I'm addicted to kale!! wash, break into small pieces, sprinkle a little salt and roast, it's so good and amazing for u!!!

@Joan_Rivers

Cooper's 10 year-old friend Russell tries to do stand-up comedy so I do what any loving, supportive Grandma would do: I heckle the kid.

@denisleary

Man marries dead girlfriend. I give it 3 weeks before she says "you seem so distant."

Valentine's day wedding bells?

Britney Spears and fiancé Jason Trawick are reportedly planning to get married on Valentine's Day in Maui, according to Hollyscoop.

And just in time for her to tie the knot, Spears' dad is reportedly ready to end his conservatorship, which leaves him in control of decisions affecting her personal and professional life.

"Jamie wants to go to court in early February so Britney will be a free woman in every sense when she marries," a source says, though some predict that the conservatorship will remain in effect for her business affairs.

METRO

Britney Spears

▶ Seal and Heidi

Behind Heidi Klum's decision

Heidi Klum's decision to separate from husband Seal was apparently motivated by wanting to escape his "diva" behaviour, according to Hollywood Life.

"Heidi's first priority has always been her marriage, but she felt like Seal wasn't meeting her halfway," a source says.

"She had to take drastic measures to show Seal she wouldn't put up with his behaviour anymore. Raising happy and healthy kids is now her No. 1 priority."

The source adds that divorce might not actually be inevitable at this point.

"I could see Heidi threatening Seal with a divorce because he thought she would never do such a thing," the source says.

"This may push Seal to finally get the help he needs to deal with his temper in a more constructive manner."

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Las Vegas: Lingerie model or call girl?

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Russia: Models as acrobats...

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...and little Russian hip hop dancers.

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Stockholm: Sheer simplicity

CONTRIBUTED

Brazil: Runway finale beauty

Worldwide fashion weeks

On any given day, somewhere in the world, a fashion week is likely taking place
We look some of the weird, random and genuinely cool ones

RICHARD PECKETT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

The month of runway shows in the big four fashion capitals are just a week away. But New York, London, Milan and Paris are hardly the only cities to put their local talent on show. With each year, the calendar of global fashion weeks seems to multiply with a runway show taking place for every scene you could possibly imagine. Because even dogs deserve a chance to strike a pose.

THE WACKY

New York Pet Fashion Week

Manhattan is a city filled with doggie spas, so it's sadly not surprising that it would be home to a fashion week devoted to fashionable four-legged Prada lovers. It's a reality television series waiting to happen with painfully pruned pooches in bows, crash helmets, sunglasses, floral skirts and even full tuxedos — probably cursing their owners as they trot down the runway.

China Fashion Week

The dramatic effects such as smoke and lighting displays are worthy of a Broadway musical. The costumes range from traditional-inspired robes to sci-fi-style looks of Lady Gaga proportions. We mean a birdcage on a model's head.

CRAZY

Colombia Moda Para El Mundo

This one is the trashy sister fashion week of Colombia Moda. That means plenty of silicon boob implants, bootylicious bums and bursting bee-stung lips. Did we mention that the most recent Columbia Moda Para El Mundo even saw a pile of fake cocaine on the runway?

Russian Fashion week

Considering that the country is known for the export of vodka, oil oligarchs and fur-clad brides, it would be a mistake to expect Russia to have a low-key week of fashion. Take the designer YanaStasia, who turned the runway into a playground for gymnastics, a mock marriage proposal and dancing kids. See?

LEGITIMATELY COOL

Stockholm and Copenhagen Fashion Weeks

The Scandinavian brands seem to have a knack for simplicity. The obvious examples are Acne and Cheap Monday. But there's also a crop of new designers such as Odd Molly and Dagmar, showing that there's more to Swedish fashion than just denim. Across the border in Denmark, Anne Sofie Madsen, who worked with creative geniuses John Galliano and Alexander McQueen, is proving to be a real trailblazer.

Istanbul Fashion Week

With its rich history and traditions, it's not surprising that Istanbul Fashion Week is showing its might. Two such names are Atil Kutoglu, who can name-drop Naomi Campbell as a client, and Arzu Kaprol, who has already debuted a collection in Paris. With its heritage meets European aesthetic and burgeoning economy, Turkey has the potential to become a fashion empire.

3 life

Trend of the week

Winter whites
We've not only been spotting white jeans on the streets of London and New York but on many an editor during the men's runway shows in Milan this past month.. MWN

Toronto-based Wesley Badanjak named new designer for Basch label

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METRO SPACES

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Floors in the Aqua at Coastal Village development in Squamish are high-grade laminate in the main area.

Incredible views, deals

STEPHANIE ORFORD
FOR METRO

Squamish is the new Surrey, but with an amazing drive to work, according to Mario Mainella, vice-president of Bowra Group.

Aqua at Coastal Village, Bowra's development in Squamish, is currently selling to many Metro Vancouverites looking to get away from the traffic and embrace an outdoor lifestyle.

Mainella's customers seem to think the panoramic Sea-to-Sky Highway commute is wonderful compared to the congested rush-hour traffic into Vancouver from the Fraser Valley, he said.

"The people that bought from Surrey just love it — 40 minutes and you're downtown."

Aqua is more than just a scenic commute, however. The mountain views from the condos and townhomes are just as spectacular, with views of Howe Sound and the nearby mountains, and the development sits waterfront to the Squamish estuary.

Aqua's concrete tower consists of 92 condominiums on six floors. They were completed last summer and are move-in ready — 62 have been sold.

The condo interiors include granite countertops, Whirlpool stainless steel appliances and flush-panel or shaker style cabinetry. Floors are high-grade laminate in the main area, and berber carpet in the bedrooms.

The bathrooms feature hand-set ceramic tiles and deep soaker tubs for relaxing after a hike up the Stawamus Chief or a ski expedition to nearby Whistler.

The condo exterior was built to keep residents protected with EnerGuide windows, Hardie siding, and five acres of secure underground parking.

"It's within walking distance of all the shops and shopping, but at the same time it gives you the quietness — you're surrounded by mountains there," he said.

"It's a very peaceful place, very quiet.

"It's a good place to raise a family. That's what we're finding. Most of the people buying there are owner-occupiers," said Mainella, adding that buyers have come from all over B.C.

Meet the condo

- **Development:** Aqua at Coastal Village
- **Developer:** Bowra Group
- **Units:** 92 condos — 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom and den, and 3-bedroom
- **Area:** Average about 1,100 square feet
- **Price:** $245,000 (2-BR + den) to $380,000 (3 BR)
- **Website:** coastalvillageliving.com

MOVING IN TO SQUAMISH

BITS & BITES

PETER SIMPSON
FOR METRO

The town of Squamish is often perceived to be a place for Vancouver folks to pull off the road to take a bathroom break, top up the gas tank, and grab a burger and fries on the way to Whistler.

These days, many Vancouver families not only stop in Squamish, they live full time in this growing community that offers many amenities and opportunities to pursue a healthy, active lifestyle.

Since 2000, about 1,900 new homes — condos, townhomes and single-detached — have been built in Squamish. This population growth provides an economic boost to the town and its businesses.

A builder recently said he took a two-year break from building homes, but said there is a growing buzz around town these days, and he believes 2012 will be a good year for Squamish overall.

The vastly improved Sea-to-Sky Highway has lessened commute times significantly. An associate said it has taken him longer to drive from his downtown Vancouver office to UBC in rush hour than it takes to drive to his home to Squamish — a little more than 30 minutes, keeping to the speed limit.

The bonus, he says, is the awe-inspiring and stress-reducing scenery he enjoys twice daily.

B.C. Home Show

Western Canada's largest home show runs Feb. 22-26 at B.C. Place Stadium. The B.C. Home and Garden Show returns to the iconic stadium following a stint at the Vancouver Convention Centre while the stadium was given an extreme makeover.

The show will offer 425 exhibitors showcasing home-related products and services. B.C. homeowners are expected to spend $7.6 billion on home renovation, improvement and repair this year.

Members of the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association will be in attendance at the association's Renovation Gallery, presented by FortisBC. Showgoers will be able to view award-winning home renovations and discuss their projects with renovation contractors and designers. I will be joining contractor John Quinton on the HGTV Stage to discuss aging in place, including advice on how homeowners can adapt their homes to accommodate emerging mobility challenges.

The leading edge of the baby boomer generation turned 65 last year, and there is much to be considered about the needs and expectations of this "Silver Tsunami."

Visit bchomeandgardenshow.com for details and to purchase discounted tickets online.

PETER SIMPSON IS THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION. EMAIL HIM AT PETER@GVHBA.ORG

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Vacation home on their minds

Couple looking for quarter-ownership

ON THE MARKET

RYAN DELUCA
FOR METRO

Darren Guildford and his wife, Jeanna, are a mid-40s couple seeking a vacation home in the world-renowned ski resort of Whistler Blackcomb.

Not wanting to spend a large sum of money, they have come to the realization that a quarter-ownership is the way to go. This means Darren and Jeanna would be able to use the property one week out of every month and, each year, the weeks would rotate.

The Guildfords are seeking a modern and updated property with at least two bedrooms and two bathrooms. The unit should be fairly close to the ski slopes although it does not have to be a ski in/ski out property. They do not wish to spend more then $120,000.

Here are three properties at which they should look.

RYAN DELUCA IS A REAL ESTATE AGENT WITH SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY CANADA

CONTRIBUTED

▶ You can enjoy a morning coffee or aprés ski drink on the balcony.

105 G2 4653 Blackcomb Way — Whistler
$114,900
Just minutes from the lifts at Blackcomb Mountain, this two-bedroom, two-bathroom condo in Horstman House has everything the Guilfords are looking for. With 947 square feet of living space and a fair sized balcony, morning coffees and an après ski drink can be comfortably had while watching the snowfall, all while drying their clothes with in-suite laundry. This complex also offers hotel management onsite, so extra renting out of the unit during their week of occupancy can earn them income. Listing agent Raymond Longmuir of Whistler Real Estate Co. Ltd. also mentions that owners have unlimited access to the onsite pool, spa, ski locker, media and games rooms.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Modern updates are a feature of this condo.

102C 2020 London Lane — Whistler
$119,000
Just on the backside of Whistler Mountain in the original ski village of Creekside sits this 1,008-square-foot condo. With modern updates to the kitchen including granite counters and stainless steel appliances, the Guildfords can make themselves right at home in a space that matches their style. A large balcony and an outdoor pool add to the ski lodge feel of this unit. Only three years old, this home at Evolution still has the bulk of its warranty in place, which gives Jeanna some piece of mind. Dean Linnell of Sutton Group West Coast Realty says of his listing that you can't beat being right at the base of the Creekside Gondola.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ There is no lacking a ski lodge charm at Legends at Creekside.

434 A 2036 London Lane — Whistler
$112,000
A rare two-bedroom and den unit at Legends in Creekside, this unit boasts 1,023 square feet of living space. With wooden window casings and wall mouldings, there is no lacking for that ski lodge charm, which really appeals to Darren. The building is situated right next to the Creekside Gondola and many pubs and restaurants, says listing agent Michelle Winslow of Whistler Real Estate Co. Ltd. She also points out that if Darren and Jeanna choose not to use all their time, they can rent the unit out to earn added income. An outdoor pool, hot tub, barbeque area, as well as a media room and fitness centre are only some of the amenities this building has to offer.

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A little va-va-voom for your living room

Style guru Karl Lohnes tells us how to add colour to a neutral space ◆ Harness your own 'je ne sais quoi'

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Q: I have a living room that is decorated with neutral colours. I'd like to integrate some colour but don't know what type, how to start and how much to add.
S. Smith, London, Ont.

A. Adding colourful accessories to a neutral room is a great way to make it look fashionable and follow some trends without breaking the bank.

First off, determine what your neutral is and work with it. Your 'neutral' could be one of many: crispy white, cream, mossy green, grey, tan are a few of the common neutrals.

Each of these works best with certain strong colours. For instance, lime green works best with cool, sharp, clear neutrals like white, grey or dark brown but is not so good with cream, tan or mossy green.

Trend colours to go with white or grey include citrus colours like lime, orange and yellow.

The best accent colours to complement tan are moss and cream along with rich blues and claret reds or purples.

Easing colour into your room with small accessories (pillows, candles and art) is the simplest way to start. Layer the colour in a few lighter and darker tones; it will give you flexibility when shopping so you don't have to worry about always finding that 'perfect colour.'

Want make a colour look even better? Add in one or two accessories that are opposite on the colour wheel to bring them to life.

For instance, if lime green is your new colour then add a few orange-tones colours to help make the green stand out.

Large ways to add colour (rugs, new paint on a focal wall, curtains) are investments to the room.

Just how much colour should you add to a neutral room? I like the 70/neutral 30/colour rule; that way you won't have too much or too little.

Bring it together

The big secret to adding larger, expensive accessories is to spend in the same category as your neutral furnishings; not more or less.

- For instance, if all your furnishings are from Ikea, then add value-driven accessories; not expensive, upscale items.
- Buy in the same style (modern, Art Deco, country) as your existing furnishings for a cohesive look.

CRATE & BARREL

▶ Citrus colours like orange, yellow and green are great choices to update a room with this season's trend colours.

VIBRATIONS AREN'T ALWAYS GOOD

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLESMACPHERSON.COM

Dear Charles, We have a Whirlpool Duet 4.5 cu. ft. front-loading washer and it sits on a Whirlpool manufactured stand. The washer actually moves as it vibrates very badly on spin cycle. Do you have any suggestions for reducing the vibrations? Catherine Orleans, Ont.

Dear Catherine,
Although it is normal for the washing machine to vibrate somewhat during the spin cycle in particular, it sounds like yours is vibrating too much.

Firstly, was the machine installed correctly?

Secondly, even if the machine was installed correctly, might it have been moved at some point by a family member or tradesperson trying to make a repair?

This would most likely throw off the original installation and calibration. Another consideration is whether or not the floor that the machine sits on level.

Lastly, when you load your washing machine, do you evenly distribute the items within the drum?
Once you address the above items, the only remaining option is to call Whirlpool and ask them if they have any other thoughts.

They are likely to suggest an appointment to come to your home and re-balance the machine. Please let us know what the outcome is and if and how the problem was solved. Good luck!

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND A MESSAGE TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

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Weekly Cookbook

Cookies, bars and squares are ultimate comfort foods. With that idea in mind, Jill Snider created her Bake Something Great! cookbook (Robert Rose, 2011). It boasts 400 recipes for goodies such as Frosted Carrot Nut Bars, Cinnamon Raspberry Stacks, Rum Balls and Key Lime Coconut Macaroons.

Both novices and experienced bakers will find Bake Something Great! easy to use thanks to its directions complete with tips and variations.

Bars you'll want to get behind

These yummy Apple Bars are a tasty alternative to pre-packaged, store-bought ones

Looking for a yummy dessert or addition for your kids' lunch bag to serve during these cold months?

Apples are a great way to go. This apple-based bar has the texture of a chewy brownie and goes well with a scoop of your favourite ice cream or yogurt for an extra special treat.

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe makes 12 bars.

Preparation:

1. Topping: Peel, core and slice the apples about 1.25 cm (1/2-inch) thick. In a bowl, mix the sugar with cinnamon; add apples and toss to coat evenly. Set aside.
2. Cake: In a large bowl and using electric mixer, beat the butter with sugar for about 1 minute. Beat in the eggs and vanilla until smooth.
3. In another bowl, whisk together the flour, cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda and salt; slowly beat into the butter mixture at medium speed until well blended. Spread in greased 2.5 l (9-inch) square cake pan.
4. Drain any juices from apples that might have accumulated. Arrange the apples on top in four rows, slightly pressing into batter. Bake the mixture in a 180 C (350 F) oven for about 40 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean. Let pan cool on rack.
5. Icing: In a bowl, stir the icing sugar, milk and vanilla until smooth; thin with additional milk if needed. Drizzle over cake. **FOODLAND ONTARIO/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ EMILY RICHARDS (A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Ingredients:

Apple Topping
- 2 large apples
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) granulated sugar
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) cinnamon

Cake
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) butter, softened
- 250 ml (1 cup) packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) all-purpose flour
- 3 ml (3/4 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking powder
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) baking soda
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt

Icing (optional)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) icing sugar, sifted
- 10 to 15 ml (2 to 3 tsp) 2% milk or 5% light cream
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) vanilla

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A not-so-final countdown

THE HOCKEY NEWS

EDWARD FRASER
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

It had been a few months, so I cracked out the Arrested Development DVDs to help fill the hours when there's no hockey on the ol' boob tube.

Those who've seen the series will know why I've had Europe's The Final Countdown bouncing around my head, and, ultimately influencing the format of this week's column…

3: Players headed to Ottawa for the All-Star Game. Though the team hasn't performed as well as last year, they'll have the same number of players take part in the game and one extra skater take part in this weekend's festivities (Alain Vigneault coached Team Lidstrom last year). The Sedins are there again, of course, and replacing Ryan Kesler is Alex Edler, who, despite his nomination, isn't getting nearly the recognition he deserves for a breakout season. Rookie Cody Hodgson will take part in the skills competition. Surprisingly, this is only the second time Daniel Sedin (2011) has been named to the All-Star Game. It's the third for Henrik (2011, 2008).

2: Number of dollars, in millions, of estimated cap space at the trade deadline. According to the always-informative and ever-correct capgeek.com, Vancouver will have a couple of million to play with should GM Mike Gillis wish to make some roster alterations. Don't expect deals nearly as impactful as the ones that took place last year when the team brought in Maxim Lapierre and Christopher Higgins (the big splash already came in the form of David Booth.) What they should do is a column topic for another time.

1: Rank in a total of power play and penalty-kill efficiency. It's no secret special teams are a, if not the, key to success, and Vancouver's play while a man up or down is the main reason they're once again near the top of the West. The Canucks, at 108.4, are one of only two teams in the NHL whose PP (23 per cent) and PK (84.5) total better than 105. And they're a wide margin above the second-place team — the Nashville Predators, at 105.6. (If you guessed that give yourself a gold star.) While not as peachy, the 5-on-5 is fine, too: The Canucks are plus-15 under those conditions, seventh overall.

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Henrik and Daniel Sedin will be representing the Canucks at the all-star game, along with Alex Edler.

Plenty of all-star firsts in Ottawa

Eighteen all-star rookies heading to big game, reflecting a season of surprise performances

Dennis Wideman thought he'd been traded. Scott Hartnell worried he'd be facing a suspension.

What both men failed to consider was that their phone was ringing with an invitation to Sunday's NHL's all-star game at Scotiabank Place.

Wideman is among the most anonymous invitees. A seven-year pro, the Washington Capitals defenceman is in the midst of a career season, but got nervous when general manager George McPhee called him earlier this month to deliver what turned out to be great news.

"When he called me, I was like, 'Aw man, where am I going now?'" said Wideman. "I didn't know what was going on. But in my experience, when a GM calls you, it's usually not good news."

Hartnell's first all-star invitation comes in his 11th NHL season and is recognition for the great offensive season he's put together for the Philadelphia Flyers.

"It almost seems a little far-fetched at times."
SCOTT HARTNELL ON PLAYING IN THE ALL-STAR GAME

The 29-year-old was named as an injury replacement this week.

"I think of myself as a good hockey player, but you look at the all-star game and the names that have been there in the past … and to think of yourself part of that group is hard," Hartnell told the Philadelphia Daily News.

All but one of the league's top-15 scorers entering play Wednesday will participate in the event.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neal in for Ovie

Alexander Ovechkin, who decided to pull out of the all-star game after receiving a three-game suspension, was replaced by Penguins winger James Neal on Wednesday.

▶ Neal, who would have been a notable omission after entering the break with 27 goals, is also an all-star rookie.

4 sports

Quoted

"Chuck has a leadership quality about him … He's just a coach that knows exactly how players are and what direction they need."
BALTIMORE RAVENS LINEBACKER PAUL KRUGER ON CHUCK PAGANO, PICTURED, WHO WAS NAMED THE INDIANAPOLIS COLTS' NEW HEAD COACH ON WEDNESDAY. THE 51-YEAR-OLD FORMER RAVENS DEFENSIVE CO-ORDINATOR HAD BEEN A CAREER ASSISTANT. HE'S THE FOURTH RAVENS DEFENSIVE CO-ORDINATOR TO GET A HEAD COACHING JOB IN LESS THAN A DECADE.

Scan code for more sports.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Team Mexico applauds the crowd following their 4-0 loss to Team U.S.A. on Tuesday.

Mexicans formidable foe for Canadians

Mexico may have placed second in its group, but it had some big wins

It's all or nothing now for Canada at the CONCACAF Olympic women's soccer qualifying tournament.

After coasting through the preliminary round, the hosts are in a do-or-die situation as they meet Mexico in a semifinal game Friday night. With a win, Canada will clinch a berth in this summer's London Games.

A loss means all the work the Canadian team has put in to rebound from last summer's early exit from the World Cup will count for little. There are no second chances at a Games berth, and only the two semifinal winners qualify for a trip to London.

"To be honest, it'll be gloves off," said Canada coach John Herdman. "Both teams have got their Olympic dreams on the line. I'm just expecting it to be everything a semifinal is meant to be when two teams want to go to the Olympic Games."

The U.S. (3-0) will meet Costa Rica (2-1) in Friday's other semifinal.

Canada finished first in Pool A with a 3-0 record while Mexico placed second in the B pool with a 2-1 mark. Herdman's crew outscored its opposition 13-1, but the rosy stats now mean little with an Olympic berth on the line.

Mexico was relegated to second place in Pool B after losing 4-0 to the powerhouse Americans on Monday night. But the Mexicans, ranked 21st in the world, have demonstrated they can be a formidable side.

Mexico drubbed Guatemala 5-0 in its opening game and thumped the Dominican Republic 7-0. Coach Leonardo Cuellar's squad also upset the U.S. during World Cup qualifying in November 2010.

"Yes, our first three games in the tournament weren't the most difficult. But when the time comes, we know how to play."
CAPTAIN CHRISTINE SINCLAIR

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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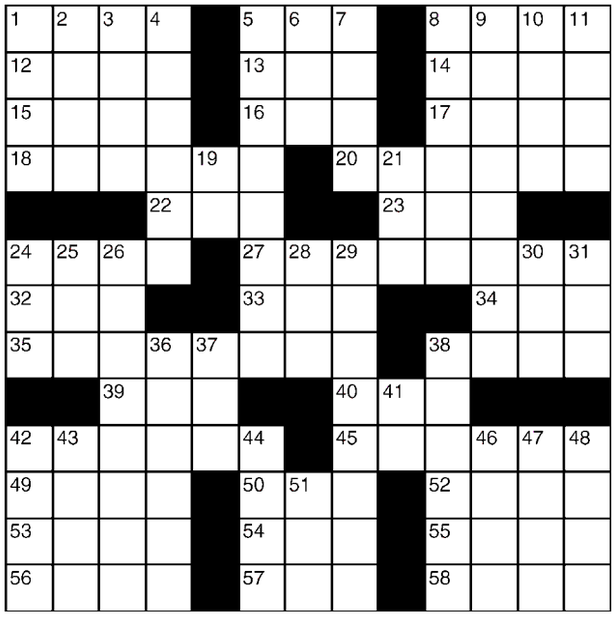

Across

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5 Fool
8 Capri or Wight
12 Appellation
13 Hockey legend Bobby
14 Blunder
15 Stonestreet of "Modern Family"
16 Keanu's "Matrix" role
17 One
18 Bounded
20 Jimmy Carter's Georgia home
22 Angry group
23 Hostel
24 React in horror
27 Loads, as software
32 Id counterpart
33 Old Olds
34 Fine, to NASA
35 Herring's cousin
38 Go back and forth
39 Fireworks response
40 Go blue?
42 French brandy
45 Fireplace area
49 Shrek is one
50 Mimic
52 Will be (Sp.)
53 Dispatch
54 Mainlander's memento
55 Not procrastinating
56 Fixes a skirt
57 Felon's flight
58 Iditarod terminus

Down

1 Change for a five
2 Distort
3 Eastern potentate
4 Leave suddenly
5 Sparrow or skylark
6 Exist
7 Item on stage
8 Tropical lizard
9 New family member
10 Pork cut
11 Salamanders
19 "Forget it!"
21 Torched
24 Jewel
25 Census statistic
26 Ultrasound image
28 Born
29 Author of "Finishing the Hat"
30 Mauna —
31 The air up there
36 Sweethearts
37 "Caught ya!"
38 Spring, for one
41 "As — sow ..."
42 Brit's blackjack
43 Lecher's look
44 Be an umpire
46 Gambling mecca
47 Decorate
48 Loathe
51 Shell game item

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	A	F	E	■	S	I	N	■	S	P	R	Y
O	X	E	N	■	K	O	I	■	C	L	U	E
P	L	E	D	G	I	N	G	■	H	U	L	A
H	E	T	U	P	■	■	H	A	M	M	E	R
■	■	■	R	O	T	C	■	L	O	B	■	■
L	O	P	E	■	R	E	N	T	■	I	R	A
A	W	L	■	V	I	D	E	O	■	N	U	N
G	E	O	■	A	P	E	X	■	A	G	E	D
■	■	■	T	A	N	■	S	T	E	W	■	■
M	A	T	T	E	S	■	■	R	A	D	I	O
I	R	I	S	■	P	L	A	N	K	I	N	G
N	I	N	E	■	A	I	L	■	E	V	I	L
G	A	G	A	■	T	E	E	■	N	A	T	E

Sudoku

	6		2					
		1		6				7
		3		9	7	6	8	
		9						6
	1	5		7		9	4	
4						1		
	2	6	7	4		5		
1				3		2		
					8		9	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

8	4	2	1	3	5	6	7	9
9	6	7	4	8	2	1	5	3
1	3	5	6	9	7	2	4	8
2	5	9	3	4	8	7	1	6
4	1	8	7	6	9	5	3	2
3	7	6	5	2	1	9	8	4
5	9	3	2	7	4	8	6	1
6	8	1	9	5	3	4	2	7
7	2	4	8	1	6	3	9	5

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

like ur face,
i miss ur face xoooo **ALWAYS**

Jeff,
Babe. Happy birthday! It would be our first time celebrate your birthday together. Wish many more to come. It's been joyful knowning you. Thank you for being there with me in the past 101 days with me. You make me :) **MEI**

Mr. 341
You are absolutely handsome. I have thee biggest crush on you!
SMITTEN PASSENGER

friend
oh well, well accepted role and back to reality willing to finish! Realized fooled no hope, no truly.Wish I was given another chance. My fault don't blame anyone but myself! In a lot of pain.
WHEN TO STARR

Today 7°/-1° Partly cloudy
Friday 5°/2° Partly cloudy
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
Don't get involved in a feud unless you know you can win it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Some situations change so fast that there is really no point in trying to direct events. Back off.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
Someone in a position of power will try to persuade you that a certain course of action is in your best interests. You know it isn't true.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Today, you must ignore all of the exciting events happening in your world and focus on getting your money situation in better shape.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
Someone seems to disagree with just about everything you say and do. Pretend he or she doesn't exist.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Take care that you don't fall out with someone in a position of authority today. It's good politics.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Libras are tougher than they sometimes look and anyone who doubts that will learn today just how resolute and committed you can be.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
For best results today, focus your energy on something creative that you can do on your own.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Partners will follow your lead today, but only if you persuade them it is in their best interests.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You will be in a charitable mood over the next 24 hours but watch out you don't give too much away.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Go with the flow today and don't worry that you can't yet see your final destination. It'll be great.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Deep questions seem to be taking up a lot of your time, and that's good. They're the questions that really matter. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KERSTIN JOENSSON/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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Jewellery Close-Out Sale!

All jewellery priced at wholesale or below wholesale

Gold jewellery from $20.00 and up!

14kt white gold diamond (55D=2.75 cttw) tennis bracelet
Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,560.00
J&M Sale Price $1,644.00

10kt classic hand-carved cameo brooch
Appraisal value: $1,500.00
J&M Regular Price $749.00
J&M Sale Price $487.00

Our huge selection is price guaranteed to beat any advertised price. All our jewelllery would be priced 50% to 70% higher at other stores. Now with an additional 35% off of our every day low prices.

18kt Cavelti ring with cabochon cut opal
Appraisal value: $5,500.00
J&M Regular Price $1,999.00
J&M Sale Price $1,299.00

18kt curb link chain with 1.00 carat round brilliant cut diamond
Appraisal value: $12,800.00
J&M Regular Price $7,279.00
J&M Sale Price $4,731.00

14kt pendant with 5.5 carat ruby surrounded by 33 diamonds (0.5 cttw)
Appraisal value: $4,200.00
J&M Regular Price $1,995.00
J&M Sale Price $1,295.00

14kt ring with 0.59 carat diamond and 0.35 cttw diamonds on band
Appraisal value: $4,250.00
J&M Regular Price $1,995.00
J&M Sale Price $1,297.00

14kt gold bracelet with 36 diamonds (1.08 cttw)
Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,789.00
J&M Sale Price $1,812.00

18kt pendant with 0.42ct centre stone surrounded by 0.15 cttw halo of diamonds
Appraisal value: $3,000.00
J&M Regular Price $1,199.00
J&M Sale Price $777.00

Pair of vintage dress clips with 4.6 cttw baguette and round diamonds
Appraisal value: $17,800.00
J&M Regular Price $8,495.00
J&M Sale Price $6,496.00

Gold by weight. Dare to compare.

14kt two-toned mens' wedding band, 7.3 grams
J&M Regular Price $473.00
J&M Sale Price $377.00

18kt white gold earrings with cubic zirconias, 2 grams
J&M Regular Price $159.00
J&M Sale Price $103.00

One of the largest selections of rings, earrings, chains and other jewellery, all at every day low prices, with 20% additional savings for a compounded saving!

14kt yellow gold mens' solid curb link 22" necklace, 23.71 grams
J&M Regular Price $1,534.00
J&M Sale Price $1,227.00

14kt yellow gold ladies' dinner ring, 3.23 grams
J&M Regular Price $209.00
J&M Sale Price $167.00

Gold by weight. Dare to compare!

We checked out the competition at two of the mall stores and our every day prices are *still* better than their sale prices!

1.36 gram chain purchased on sale December 30, 2011, for $125.00

J&M every-day price for the same item on that day was $60.93

You would have saved $64.07

1.26 gram chain purchased on sale January 4, 2012, for $128.00

J&M every-day price for the same item on that day $79.13

You would have saved $48.87

J&M Price Comparison

10kt yellow gold Singapore link 18" chain, 0.98 grams
J&M Regular Price $48.00
J&M Sale Price $37.80

Probably the largest jewellery close-out sale ever in the Lower Mainland!

Voted #1 Jewellery Store in the 2011 *Readers Choice Awards,* **Stars of Vancouver !**

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